(5) Finally, the Member represented the difficulties experienced in getting agricultural implements and also complained of destruction of crops and cattle by wild animals, and requested that remedial measures might be taken.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

III.—PROTECTION. (1) LEGISLATION (*continued.*)

THE NAIR PARTITION.

After lunch time the Dewan invited the opinions of the Nair Members of the Assembly on the question of the partition of Nair Tarwads. Of the 29 Nair Members, 16 were for *Thavazhi* partition, 9 for individual partition and 3 were against partition altogether. One Nair Member was absent throughout the whole Session.

IV.—PRODUCTION

(1) AGRICULTURE (*continued.*)

54. Certain suggestions for the improvement of agriculture in the Shencottah Taluk

Mr. N. Subbiah Thevar (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) complained of the ryots being put to immense difficulties on account of the insufficient supply of water for irrigation purposes. The existing tanks of the taluk were not capacious enough to hold the necessary quantity of water. The Tank Restoration Party had not been working satisfactorily and the irrigation works done in the taluk did not fully satisfy the requirements of the ryots. There were large areas of dry lands which could be converted into wet lands, if sufficient water was available. He, therefore, suggested that dams might be constructed in the Muriappanchan river and the Palaruviaur and the water diverted into the reservoirs constructed for the purpose, so that the water in the two rivers could be made available for irrigation purposes.

He then stated that the areas now set apart for the grazing of cattle were unsuitable for the purpose and suggested that large areas of reserved forests situated near the town be thrown open as pasture land and for the supply of the necessary agricultural implements. The Member next referred to the delay and difficulty experienced by the people of the taluk in getting free passes from the Forest Department for the removal of firewood and green manure leaves. The necessity for the Proverthicar's certificates and the sketches of the lands from which firewood, &c. had to be removed, now insisted on, should be done away with, as no serious harm would be done to the forests thereby.

He also submitted that, for the possession and sale of pepper, ginger, cocoanut oil, and other articles subject to export duty in the Shencottah taluk, the traders were being compelled to take out licenses from the Excise Department and to keep special accounts for the purpose. The system worked great hardship on the people and should, therefore, be done away with as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

55. Desirability of issuing agricultural loans to the Cardamom ryots on a nominal interest.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahamad Baduradin Rowther (Member, Devicolam taluk) spoke of the great difficulties experienced by the cardamom ryots on account of the recent war, scarcity of rain, increase in the price of food-stuffs, increase in the labourers' wages and the enhancement of the acreage value of cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre. He suggested the following proposals for the consideration of Government:—

(1) Agricultural loans should be advanced to cardamom ryots on the security of their cardamom lands on interest at the rate of 4 or 5 per cent. and the same recovered in small annual instalments.

(2) All the cardamoms produced in the State should be purchased through Government agency and sold after due advertisement at Alleppey or other commercial centres for proper prices, thereby preventing foreigners from purchasing cardamoms at very low prices and selling them outside Travancore at exorbitant prices.

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